

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: NOBLES COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC	DOCKET NO. WRU-03-52-979
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ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR WAIVER

(Issued September 17, 2003)

On August 15, 2003, Nobles Cooperative Electric (Nobles) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) a request for waiver of 199 IAC 20.18(8), which applies to electric utilities with fewer than 50,000 customers. These rules require those electric utilities to maintain, among other things, certain outage information and to adopt and file a reliability plan. No objections to the request for waiver were filed.

In support of its request, Nobles stated that it primarily does business in the state of Minnesota and that it has only ten members in Iowa. Nobles also noted that it is required to provide reliability information pursuant to Minnesota statutes and rules and Nobles offered to file a copy of such information with the Board. The information compiled for Minnesota includes the Iowa customers. Nobles argued that complying with the Iowa rules would impose an unreasonable burden on its members.

Based on the information provided by Nobles, application of the rules would pose an undue hardship on Nobles without any substantial corresponding benefit. The small number of customers in Iowa makes the data maintenance and reporting

requirements burdensome, particularly when Nobles states that it will file with the Board the reliability information required by Minnesota, which will contain much of the information required by the Iowa rules. The standards contained in 199 IAC 1.3 have been met, and the Board will grant the waiver and require Nobles to file with the Board all reliability information required to be filed in Minnesota.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The request for waiver of 199 IAC 20.18(8) filed by Nobles Cooperative Electric on August 15, 2003, is granted.
2. Nobles shall promptly file with the Board on an ongoing basis any reliability information required to be filed by the state of Minnesota.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Diane Munns

/s/ Mark O. Lambert

ATTEST:

/s/ Sharon Mayer
Executive Secretary, Assistant to

/s/ Elliott Smith

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 17th day of September, 2003.